

QA-182
Charles Cahall Farm
Church Hill vicinity
Private

mid-19th century

The large brick house on the Charles Cahall farm is one of the most carefully preserved mid-19th century houses in the county. In overall form, plan, and detail this house bears much in common with Rose Villa (QA-175) an equally remarkable house near Sudlersville constructed in 1859. The Cahall house remains virtually untouched, and the few changes have been minor. Details of particular interest include the original transitional trim and several transitional construction methods. Also worthy of note are the slate roof Victorian meat house and a very well preserved wind mill with cistern.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Charles Cahall Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

East side of Rt. 213

CITY, TOWN

Church Hill

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Charles M. Cahall

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Church Hill

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21623

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: NBW 3

Folio #: 520

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

QA-182

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

 DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Charles Cahall Farm is located on the east side of Maryland Route 213 approximately one mile southeast of Church Hill. The property backs on a small stream that flows north into the main branch of Southeast Creek near the Church Hill Mill.

The main house faces northwest toward Route 213. It is of brick construction, two stories high, five bays wide, and two rooms deep, with paired flush chimneys at each end of the shallow hip roof. An original two story brick L with a hip roof projects from the north end of the rear facade. A Victorian meathouse and a windmill with wood cistern are located immediately to the rear of the house, other farm buildings are clustered to the east.

The front facade of the main house is laid in seven-course bond. The entrance door is located in the center bay, with flanking side-lights and a three-light transom. A pilastered door surround with bracketed frieze and a massive granite door sill add further embellishment to the door. There are two large 6/6 windows to

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

either side of the door and five 6/6 windows on the second floor. The second story window above the door has flanking 2/2 side lights, giving added emphasis to the center bay. There are three three-light cellar windows symmetrically ranged across the facade. The first and second floor window openings have splayed brick jack arches and wood sills; all except the window above the door are fitted with louvered wood shutters. The shallow pitch standing seam metal roof is set off by a wide bracketed cornice. The brackets have turned drops and are set against a wide frieze below a deep soffit and broad crown mold. A widow's walk stretches across the ridge of the hip roof. A 20th century iron railing presumably replaces an earlier, more elaborate wood railing. An original one story open porch is carried across the first floor of the front facade. Large square posts with scrolled brackets support a molded frieze and metal hip roof.

Paired flush chimneys with corbeled dentil course caps dominate the north gable. Large 6/6 windows are placed to the left of each chimney on the first and second floor, as well as the cellar. The bay to the right of each chimney is not expressed. The bonding

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

pattern, jack arches and bracketed cornice are all identical to the front facade.

The two north bays of the rear facade are covered by the original rear L. Of the remaining three bays, there is a door in the north bay with a down-set 6/6 window above and two 6/6 windows to the left on each floor. A single three-light cellar window allows light to the southeast room in the cellar. All other details match the front facade except the cornice which is not bracketed.

The north gable wall of the main house is flush with the north wall of the rear wing, with no seam in the brickwork between the two sections. The fenestration is different from the south gable in that there are three 6/6 windows on each floor and three cellar windows. The bay immediately to the left or east of the front chimney is not expressed.

The rear wing is three bays long and one room deep, with a hip roof that is slightly lower than the eave of the main house. On the north facade, there is a door with sidelights and transom in the west bay, two 6/6 windows to the left and three 6/6 windows on the second floor. An original entry porch protects the

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

door on this facade. The east gable of the wing is laid in seven-course bond with no openings. A single flush brick chimney is centered on this wall. Because the roof is hipped, the cornice is carried across the gable. A one story porch stretches across the south wall of the wing. There are doors opening onto the porch in the center and west bays on the first floor, with a 6/6 window in the east bay and three 6/6 windows on the second floor.

The interior consists of a center hall, double-pile plan in the main house, and a hall and kitchen in the rear wing. The principal stair rises against the north wall of the center hall to a landing against the rear (east) wall. It is an open string stair with an octagonal newel post with turned top and base, turned balusters and a plain walnut rail. A band of flat trim outlines the treads and risers; the area below the carriage is paneled with tall vertical panels. A circular fitting in the top of the newel post may have once supported a newel lamp similar to the Victorian lamps in the Harper Residence (QA-399) and the Collins Residence (QA-257) in Centreville.

Paneled doors with Victorian panel molds open from

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION

the hall into each of the four rooms on the first floor. The two south rooms are now used as storage rooms. The fireplaces are blocked and the mantels gone. At one time these two rooms were only separated by a wide, arched opening but this has been partitioned. The two north rooms are still used as living quarters. These two rooms are separated by a wide doorway with double sliding doors. The mantel in the front or northwest room is probably original, consisting of an early Victorian surround with reeded columns flanking the opening and supporting side brackets and a shelf. The mantel in the northeast room is an Eastlake pattern, presumably not original. A door in the rear wall of this room leads down two steps to the wing. The original trim survives throughout the first floor. The baseboard is beaded and rabbeted to form a broken field, and the architrave trim consists of a wide flattened ogee backband applied against the same beaded broken field fascia. The lintel architraves come to a slight peak, a feature generally found in the mid-19th century. The same plan is repeated on the second floor but with an original unheated chamber at the west end of the hall.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.5 DESCRIPTION

There is a full cellar under the main house with the same "center hall" floor plan as on the main floor. It is interesting to note that the chimney bases have brick piers with short, heavy wood sill pieces, marking the transition that occurs in the mid-19th century away from arched masonry bases. A similar transitional feature is the use of wood bridging between the first floor joists.

The wing is divided into two rooms on the first floor, with a kitchen to the east and a hall to the west, between the kitchen and the main house. The partition between these two rooms has been shifted slightly to the west, but the function is essentially unchanged. An enclosed winder stair rises in the northwest corner of the hall, and doors from the hall lead up two steps to the main house, down to the cellar, to the porch and to the kitchen. A blocked fireplace is centered on the east gable wall of the kitchen, with a built-in cupboard to the right and an enclosed winder stair to the left. This stair rises to a segregated servants room above the kitchen.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.6 DESCRIPTION

Meat House

To the rear of the house is a frame meathouse on brick piers, ten feet wide by 12 feet long. It has a pitched gable roof and a batten door in the center of the west gable. The exterior is covered with vertical board-and-batten siding, a box cornice with scalloped verge board, and a slate roof. The batten door is constructed with beaded vertical boards and is hung on wrought strap hinges. A wood box lock with an iron key still serves to secure the door. The interior framing consists of hewn corner posts mortised into hewn sills and top plates and reinforced with circular sawn up-braces. The corner joints are pegged mortise-and-tenon. The joists are notched over the top plates and support flat false plates. The circular sawn rafters are mitred and butted at the ridge; collar beams are half-lapped and nailed with machine nails. Wrought iron hooks embedded in the joists and collars are still used to hang meat. The floor is supported by log joists hewn flat on top.

Adjacent to the north side of the meat house is a metal frame windmill with a wood cistern that operated a gravity feed system to the house. The machinery is

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.7 DESCRIPTION

no longer in use but remains in good condition.
Inscribed in one of the concrete supports is the
date "March 30, 1909".

Among the numerous farm buildings, the only
notable building is a granary with flanking cribs
dating to the latter part of the 19th century.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The large brick house on the Charles Cahall farm is one of the most carefully preserved mid-19th century houses in the county. In overall form, plan, and detail this house bears much in common with Rose Villa (QA-175) an equally remarkable house near Sudlersville constructed in 1859.

The Cahall house remains virtually untouched, and the few changes have been minor. Details of particular interest include the original transitional trim and several transitional construction methods. Also worthy of note are the slate roof Victorian meat house and a very well preserved wind mill with cistern.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

7/9/80

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

Field Notebook QA-XV; Recorded February 21, 1980.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 18I KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



QA-182
Charles Caball Farm

Mary McCarthy
Spring/Summer 2003
Digital color photo on file at MHT





QA-182

Charles Cahall Farm
Church Hill vicinity

Orlando Ridout V 1980

Front facade from Southwest



QA-182

Charles Cahall Farm
Church Hill vicinity'
Orlando Ridout V 1980
View from southeast